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**TEMPORARY EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT PROGRAM ENDS**

**April 9, 2004 – Helena** - The federal Temporary Extended Unemployment Program came to a quiet end last week. The program, which pumped nearly \$26 million into Montana communities over the past two years, was implemented nationally in March 2002 as part of the "Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of 2002" designed to help stimulate the economy following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

**"Implementing the Temporary Extended Unemployment Program provided real money for real Montanans who are out of work," said Wendy Keating, Commissioner of Labor and Industry. "The extension was 100% federally funded and did not place any additional burden on Montana employers," she continued.**

The program provided unemployment insurance benefits to qualified individuals for up to 13 weeks beyond the maximum regular allowable benefit period of 26 weeks, allowing unemployed workers more time to find work. Data compiled by the Unemployment Insurance Division shows the following results from the program:

- **\$25.8 million paid out**
- **25,118 initial claims taken**
- **128,745 weeks paid**
- **\$201 Average Weekly Benefit per claimant**